DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 308 981 PS 018 185

TITLE Partners in Learning Improvement Sites: Program Descriptions 1989.
INSTITUTION New Jersey State Dept. of Education, Trenton. Div. of General Academic Education.
PUB DATE Feb 89
NOTE 38p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Educational Improvement; Elementary Education; *Family School Relationship; *Grants; *Parent Participation; Program Descriptions; Public Schools; *State Programs
IDENTIFIERS *New Jersey

ABSTRACT

In October of 1987, New Jersey implemented the Partners in Learning program to increase levels of awareness and participation among parents and school staff. In the final phase of the program, 30 schools were selected to receive grants to plan and implement parent involvement programs. This document describes some of the successful grant applicants' plans to involve parents. Schools plan to: (1) increase parent knowledge and ability to assist children in the learning process; (2) help parents fulfill their own potential; (3) help parents understand their role in the overall scheme of educating children; and (4) assist school staff in minimizing barriers to effective partnerships. A total of 27 programs are very briefly described. (RH)

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Partners in Learning Improvement Sites

Program Descriptions 1989

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PARTNERS IN LEARNING

Improvement Sites

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

1989

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Commissioner

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Assistant Commissioner
Division of General Academic Education

New Jersey State Department of Education
225 West State Street
CN 500
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500

February, 1989

PTM 800.78

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FOREWORD

In October of 1987, New Jersey implemented the Partners in Learning program to increase levels of awareness and participation among parents and school staff in ways that positively affect students' academic achievement. At that time, we launched a statewide media campaign to inform the public of the importance of effective partnerships between home and school. We also wanted parents to know that they can improve their children's performance in school by engaging in supportive activities regularly at home.

In July 1988, 14 schools that have already implemented programs to promote parental support of their children's learning were selected as Partners in Learning model programs and honored during a ceremony at the State Board of Education meeting. These school-based programs were described in a publication that was later distributed to educators throughout the state.

We now are ready to embark on the final phase of the program. Thirty schools have been selected to receive grants to plan and implement programs, with the assistance of department staff, that will improve home-school partnerships. This document describes some of the ways these successful grant applicants plan to involve parents.

Saul Cooperman
Commissioner

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Introduction

Numerous studies indicate that one of the best guarantees of a child's success in school is parental involvement. Parents' attitudes about learning influence academic achievement, regardless of age, socioeconomic status, race, or the school curriculum type. Working with children at home reinforces the school's teaching. Children care more about learning when parents show that they care, too; and children also try harder when parents show that learning is important.

Activities that engage parents as partners supporting student learning must be consistently fostered by the school. The school must serve as the catalyst for involving parents in the school program regularly. To help schools throughout the state strengthen their home-school partnerships, the New Jersey State Department of Education is offering grants to 30 sites for two years to implement the Partners in Learning program.

Although there are many types of parent involvement with schools, **this initiative is designed to impact on the partnership between parents and school staff that result in improved student learning.**

The effort is based on three assumptions about parental support and school achievement:

- Students increase academic achievement when their learning is reinforced by their parents.
- Parents help their children increase academic performance by examining and learning ways they can reinforce the work of the school.
- Schools help parents by examining and learning the ways school staff can interact with parents in order to assist them with this reinforcement.

The expected outcome for the program is to increase:

- public awareness of the importance of effective home/school partnerships;
- the number of schools that implement programs and practices designed to overcome the barriers to parent participation in their children's learning;
- the number of parent-initiated school contacts;
- the number of teachers actively engaging parents in their children's learning at home;
- the amount of "how to" information made available to parents on supporting student achievement; and
- the number of students in participating schools who experience improved academic performance.

An internal and external committee screened the proposals submitted by schools and identified 30 improvement sites. The following summary of selected programs outlines the strategies these school will use to:

- Increase parent knowledge and ability to assist children in the learning process.
- Are consistent with the interests, needs, and desires of the parents.
- Help parents to fulfill their own potential.
- Help parents understand their role in the overall scheme of educating children.
- Assist school staff in minimizing barriers to effective partnerships.

AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Program Descriptions

School:	Memorial Elementary School	**Address:**	Midland Avenue
Type:	K-4		Paramus, NJ 07652
Size:	287 students	**Phone:**	(201) 262-4611

District:	Paramus
Superintendent:	Harry A. Galinsky
Principal:	Mikey Lustberg (Acting)

Memorial Elementary School will implement a viable long-range plan with ongoing strategies to improve home-school communications and parent involvement. The school will engage in activities and practices that are designed to overcome parent-identified obstacles of limited time and availability.

- Increased efforts will be made to reach parents who do not speak English. Native language video and audio tapes will be used.
- Awareness workshops and seminars will assist families in areas of stress management, children dealing with divorce, latch-key children, and how to be an effective participant at school conferences. Flexible scheduling is planned to accommodate parents' varied needs.
- New families in the school will be presented with a Welcome Wagon (a lunchbox or a knapsack) filled with school supplies and important information about the school.
- A parent newsletter will include special columns on such topics as improving dinner time discussion, establishing ground rules, accepting responsibility, etc.
- A homework guidelines manual will provide special study units pertaining to grade level and subject area.

School:	Sacred Heart School	**Address:**	Fourth & Jasper Streets
Type:	K-8		Camden, NJ 08104
Size:	229 students	**Phone:**	(609) 963-1341

District:	Diocese of Camden
Superintendent:	Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McIntyre
Principal:	Shirley Howe

Sacred Heart School serves an ethnically mixed student population within the school's neighborhood. Due to the reluctance of parents to attend night meetings, Saturday morning sessions with baby-sitting services are planned. The school staff will involve the families in creative homework assignments. Some essential elements of the improvement plan include:

- Workshop sessions that will focus on developing positive self-image and discipline in children, expanding the role of parents in schooling, helping parents and students engage in cooperative learning, and encouraging families to help children succeed in school and beyond.

- Personal contacts by a part-time coordinator to solicit parent support and participation and maintain contact with parents who are unable to attend scheduled activities.

- Inservice for teachers, offering suggestions for structuring homework assignments that involve interaction with family members.

School:	Mary Ethel Costello School	**School:**	St. Mary's School
Type:	K-6	**Type:**	PK-8
Size:	595 students	**Size:**	300 Students
Address:	Cumberland & Joy Streets Gloucester, NJ 08030	**Address:**	Cumberland & Sussex Sts. Gloucester, NJ 08030
Phone:	(609) 456-0315	**Phone:**	(609) 456-0913
Principal:	Martin T. O'Connor	**Principal:**	Sister Patricia Margaret
District:	Gloucester City	**District:**	Diocese of Camden
Superintendent:	James Hetherington	**Superintendent:**	Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McIntyre

Mary Ethel Costello School, a public school, and St. Mary's Elementary School, a parochial school, located within two city blocks of each other have united to form a unique partnership to increase parent awareness and involvement. The improvement plan is designed to help parents feel more comfortable with their role as the primary educator of their children.

- An Enrichment Time Program will feature enrichment and leisure time activities that support learning.
- Morning, afternoon, and evening parent/teacher workshops will correlate with classroom instruction on substance abuse education, focusing on positive, constructive elements in the school, home, and community that build a strong sense of pride within children.
- Weekly workshops for parents and professional staff will provide information pertaining to discipline, effective communication, and other critical issues.

School: Moore Elementary School
Type: 4-5
Size: 206 students

Address: Highway 77
Seabrook, NJ 08032
Phone: (609) 451-4589

District: Upper Deerfield Township
Superintendent: L. William Morris
Principal: Henry Sulzman

Moore Elementary School is located in a rural community in which many of the homes are isolated and scattered throughout the area. PROJECT P.A.L. (Parent Assisted Learning) has been designed to improve home-school communication and increase parent involvement in the learning process.

- An Outreach Committee will publish and mail monthly newsletters with information regarding reading and math techniques that can be used at home. A regular feature will be a report that shows the number of parents who are directly involved in their children's homework assignments.
- Home goals consistent with instruction will be established following parent-teacher conferences and discussions.
- A Homework Hotline, operational Monday through Friday between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., will enable parents to obtain school information and to verify assignments.
- The Moore School Library will be open to students and parents at least one evening a week to enable parents to bring their children to the library for help with homework, research projects, and selection of reading materials.
- Workshops and a monthly newsletter to parents will present techniques to encourage reading and home math sessions.

School: Marie D. Durand Elementary School
Type: 1-4
Size: 600 students

Address: 371 W. Forest Grove Rd.
Vineland, NJ 08360
Phone: (609) 691-1657

District: Vineland
Superintendent: Richard Prochaska
Principal: William D. Maenner

Marie D. Durand Elementary School's parent partnership efforts are planned to ensure that every household can participate in one way or another. The school will ask for the parents' assistance, respond to their needs, and recognize parental efforts to enhance the learning experiences of the students.

- Parents will be provided the information they need to contact teachers directly.
- Pamphlets describing materials available in the parent resource library will be disseminated.
- Ministers will continue to promote family participation in education through sermons that relate to this subject.
- Transportation and child care services will be provided for parents who need these services in order to attend evening workshops and conferences.
- A monthly newsletter containing student stories and poems will be expanded to include a parent-child activity for each grade level that can be completed at home.

School:	Watchung Elementary School	**Address:**	14 Garden Street
Type:	PK-5		Montclair, NJ 07042
Size:	400 students	**Phone:**	(201) 783-8975

District:	Montclair
Superintendent:	Mary Lee Fitzgerald
Principal:	Barbara Strobert

Watchung Elementary, a magnet school, enrolls a diverse student body from all areas of the community. This presents a unique challenge in developing and maintaining strong home and school partnerships that include all students' parents. Through the Partners in Learning program, the school will:

- Conduct series of Saturday joint learning experiences for families using computers, kitchen chemistry, and model building.

- Provide staff training on involving parents in student learning through such efforts as establishing school/home performance contracts, planning regular homework assignments that parents can supervise and participate in, recommending specific TV shows for parents to view and discuss with their children, suggesting games and activities related to schoolwork which the family can share, and involving parents in their children's reading activities through a parent-child reading partners project.

- Encourage and facilitate minority parent participation in school activities by developing a buddy system among parents; hosting neighborhood parent meetings, providing transportation as necessary; conducting monthly evening workshops at a central locale; and hosting a Science/Math Fair to display family projects.

School:	Northeast Elementary School	**Address:**	603 Grove Street
Type:	Pk-5		Montclair, NJ 07043
Size:	352 students	**Phone:**	(201) 783-8991

District:	Montclair
Superintendent:	MaryLee Fitzgerald
Principal:	David Gidich

Northeast Elementary School's improvement is designed to foster home-school partnerships with those parents who are not traditionally involved. Strategies are planned to engage, motivate, inform, instruct, and challenge parents to reinforce school learning.

- Support groups will be formed by pairing families with teachers. These groups will meet regularly to share how learning is bolstered by home support and to learn how to use the computer for home instruction.

- A computer loaned to support-group families will reinforce the classroom's computer instruction in math and vocabulary skill development.

- Parents and teachers involved in support groups will evaluate the effectiveness of using the computer at home and annually identify promising practices which have promoted increased home and school cooperation during the previous year.

School: Bruce Street School (for the Deaf)
Type: Handicapped
Size: 60 students

Address: 333 Clinton Place
Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: (201) 705-3952

District: Newark
Superintendent: Eugene Campbell
Principal: Margaret Herron

Bruce Street School serves profoundly deaf students who do not reside within the school's neighborhood. Students are taught to communicate by using a combination of sign language, speech, gesture, and visual and tactile modes. Instructional emphasis is placed on learning sign language. About 26% of these students come from homes where Spanish is the primary language.

Since many parents lack signing ability, communication with their children is limited. Project FUN (Families Understanding Needs) plans to bridge the communication gap by forging a home-school partnership that will incorporate the following elements:

- Saturday morning classes for both Spanish and English speaking parents will be offered that teach sign words relating to household chores, health, hygiene, safety, discipline, emotions, emergencies, and homework.
- Classes will be held at a central location, convenient to most bus lines. Parents will be reimbursed for their travel expenses as necessary.
- Information on supportive services within the community will be made available to the parents.
- Parents will be given the opportunity to network with deaf adults to open communications on subjects related to deafness.

School:	Camden Middle School	**Address:**	321 Bergen Street
Type:	5-8		Newark, NJ 07102
Size:	716 students	**Phone:**	(201) 733-8350

District:	Newark
Superintendent:	Eugene Campbell
Principal:	Anzella K. Nelms

Camden Middle School recognizes that inner-city parents who serve as educational collaborators can influence their children's learning and behavior positively. Various roles that parents play regarding their child's education have been identified and activities are planned accordingly.

- An outreach program will be established to provide a community support base for parents learning to become more effective supporters, advisors, and co-decision makers.
- Parents will be trained to develop positive attitudes and high expectations for student achievement and behavior.
- Feeder schools and the improvement site will jointly plan orientation nights for incoming parents and students.

School: Miller Street Elementary School
Type: K-8
Size: 596 students

Address: 47 Miller Street
Newark, NJ 07114
Phone: (201) 733-6815

District: Newark
Superintendent: Eugene Campbell
Principal: Alice Dunston

Miller Street Elementary School, located in an urban/industrial neighborhood, plans to offer parent participation opportunities that satisfy both the Black and Hispanic communities in ways that respect the similarities and differences of the two groups. The components of the program aim to increase parent involvement by enhancing each parent's ability, knowledge, and concept of school-parent relationships.

- Monthly "hands on" seminars will enable parents to assist their children with school assignments, increase their understanding of the importance of proper eating and sleeping habits, solicit their support of regular school attendance, and stimulate their motivation to provide a designated study area, free of distractions, within the home.

- School-based adult education General Educational Development diploma (G.E.D.) classes and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes will be promoted to increase parents' self-esteem and to acquaint them with increased job opportunities that will be available upon completion of the course.

- School staff will become more skilled in reaching out to parents through off-site in-service training seminars conducted by parent involvement specialists.

School:	Washington Elementary School	**Address:**	289 Main Street
Type:	K-6		West Orange, NJ 07052
Size:	384 students	**Phone:**	(201) 669-5385

District:	West Orange
Superintendent:	James F. Donovan
Principal:	Marie De Maio

Washington Elementary School has designed a parent networking system that will reach out to parents and staff members within the ethnically diverse school community to improve standardized test scores and strengthen parenting skills.

- School staff will develop and disseminate kits and learning packets, designed to improve students' work in reading, language, and mathematics, for students and parents to use a home. Included in these materials will be test-taking strategies, as well as learning activities.

- Coffee klatches, a school-wide community campaign, and a parent resource pamphlet will highlight available community services, suggested reading lists, parent-teacher conference hints, home study activities, parenting skills, and methods of building self-esteem in family members.

- Parents will be trained to serve as resource persons within the school community.

School: Walter Hill Elementary School
Type: 1-6
Size: 330 students

Address: Kings Highway
Swedesboro, NJ 08085
Phone: (609) 467-0146

District: Swedesboro-Woolwich
Superintendent: James Sarruda
Principal: Richard Fisher

Walter Hill Elementary School serves children in a culturally and linguistically diverse rural community. Efforts to expand home-school cooperation must include multi-cultural and multi-ethnic group participation. Plans are underway to create an educational environment that engages all parents as active participants in the education of their children by reaching out to parents not traditionally involved in the school program.

- A home-school committee will plan in-service training for school staff to examine existing attitudes, practices, and beliefs regarding parent involvement.
- Considerations that are essential to multi-cultural, multi-ethnic parental inclusion in the educational process will be researched, developed, and implemented.
- Barriers to effective home-school partnerships will be identified and plans will be made to overcome obstacles that hinder parent participation.

School: Mary J. Donohoe Elementary School
Type: K-8
Size: 362 students

Address: East Fifth Street
Bayonne, NJ 07002
Phone: (201) 858-5969

District: Bayonne
Superintendent: James H. Murphy
Principal: Patricia L. McGeehan

Mary J. Donohoe Elementary School expects to develop a comprehensive parent involvement program that meets the needs of its pluralistic community. Home-school cooperation and parent access to information will be key components of the program.

- Off-site workshops that share helpful homework hints, positive discipline techniques, and information on peer pressure and substance abuse will strengthen home-school collaboration.
- A parent resource center and a lending library, containing educational materials (i.e., manipulatives, cassettes, video tapes, books, and parenting magazines), will be available to parents during lunch, after school, and during evening hours.
- Family Math and Reading is Fun programs will be implemented.
- A monthly newsletter to parents will present information on upcoming workshops, new library materials, helpful hints, etc.

School: Carroll Robbins Elementary School
Type: K-5
Size: 465 students

Address: Tyler Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
Phone: (609) 989-2628

District: Trenton
Superintendent: Crosby Copeland, Jr.
Principal: Frederick Prunetti

Carroll Robbins Elementary School, located in a bilingual urban setting where residents are beset by limited incomes, underemployment, deteriorating and overcrowded housing, and homelessness, seeks to build a home-school collaboration that is sensitive to the existing conditions in which parents struggle to survive. The parent involvement improvement plan endeavors to meet the challenge of motivating and supporting parents in ways that will stimulate partnerships that benefit children's academic performance.

- Publicity through the local media, churches, and other institutions will convey "how-to's" and the benefits and rewards of parent participation. The publicity theme will be "My family helps me to learn."

- Contact with parents will be developed and maintained through both on-site and off-site meetings. Training sessions will be scheduled at times that are convenient for parents, with considerations for language differences.

- A special collection of books appropriate for a reading-at-home program will be housed in the school library. The collection will include stories written by students in the school, as well as trade books that student can read to their parents. Books in Spanish will also be made available. Activities in support of this effort will include parent-child book reviews, a balloon launch, thematic readings, poster contests, and parent-child authorship of books.

School: Grant Elementary School
Type: K-7
Size: 600 students

Address: North Clinton & Perry Sts.
Trenton, NJ 08609
Phone: (609) 989-2640

District: Trenton
Superintendent: Crosby Copeland, Jr.
Principal: Everene Downing

Grant Elementary School will focus on cultivating congruence between the educational goals of the family and those of the school by involving families in learning. To achieve this goal, parents and school staff will be provided direction and training that clearly defines supportive roles and will foster shared leadership to ensure an effective partnership.

- A parent coordinator will be trained to serve as the home-school-community liaison to bridge communication and information gaps that may exist.
- A parent-teacher steering committee will gather data to develop a community resource file, publish pamphlets and newsletters, and recruit workshop leaders.
- The school staff will be trained in ways to involve all parents, make all parents welcome, and keep the home-school lines of communication open.
- A series of activities will be planned and implemented as a Mini Community Evening School to provide opportunities for families to work and play together during after-school hours. Parents, staff, and other individuals in the community will lead these group activities.

School:	Gregory Elementary School	**Address:**	Rutherford Avenue
Type:	K-7		Trenton, NJ
Size:	629 students	**Phone:**	(609) 989-2510

District:	Trenton
Superintendent:	Crosby Copeland, Jr.
Principal:	Thelma Napoleon-Smith

The results of a survey conducted by the Gregory Elementary School indicate that parents felt uncomfortable whenever they needed to communicate with school staff and others in authority, helpless in dealing with the community's drug problem, and unable to find adequate time to supervise at home learning. A high percentage also asserted that teachers believe parents don't care about their children.

The school plans to employ the following strategies to provide parents the opportunity to examine educational and cultural differences, develop positive attitudes about themselves and others, and overcome some of their personal difficulties:

- Form a broad-based Advisory Council composed of parents, school staff, a student council representative, a marketing manager, a college professor, a Baptist minister, a medical center administrator, and the "I Have A Dream" program director.

- Provide opportunities for parents to learn basic literacy skills to enable them to be more proficient in helping their children with school assignments.

- Provide a series of monthly workshop sessions designed to share information between the school staff and parents on test besting, parent survival skills, substance abuse, discipline, and school readiness.

School:	Joyce Kilmer Elementary School	**Address:**	Stuyvesant Avenue & Whittlesey Road
Type:	K-6		Trenton, NJ 08618
Size:	574 students	**Phone:**	(609) 989-2710

District:	Trenton
Superintendent:	Crosby Copeland, Jr.
Principal:	Lawrence W. Dun

Since the majority of the Joyce Kilmer Elementary School parents are employed, combined family-style educational and social functions, convened in the evenings, will serve as the forum in which the home-school partnership will be built. Elements of the school's program include:

- Presentations on topics of interest, such as homework, child development, discipline, and substance abuse.
- Social activities that include supper, games, make and take activities, ethnic dish recipe exchange, and a family/school fashion show.
- A homework hotline, staffed by both teachers and parents, that is accessible to all parents and students.
- Teacher workshops designed to help teachers become more effective communicators.
- Involvement of parents as homeroom coordinators to assist teachers with organizing and implementing classroom activities.

School: St. James Elementary
Type: K-7
Size: 261 students

Address: 27 East Paul Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08638
Phone: (609) 396-2167

District: Diocese of Trenton
Superintendent: Sr. Mary Louis Moran
Principal: Sr. Nancy DeAngelo

Parents and teachers at St. James Elementary School have developed a three-pronged improvement plan to build acceptance, reliance, and commitment. ACCEPTANCE develops a mutual trust and acceptance between families and teachers; RELIANCE nurtures and cultivates the partnership through support services and programs; and COMMITMENT maintains the partnership.

- After school, teachers will visit parents at home, in hospitals, or in prison.
- Outings geared to the age level and interest of the children are planned for students, their families, and teachers in order for parents and teachers to interact and to share joint responsibility in caring for the children.
- Information and services will be provided on substance abuse, domestic violence, sexual attitudes, health and dietary habits, parenting skills, and improving reading skills.
- Parent-student-teacher contracts, negotiated to include what parents expect of the school and what the school expects of parents, will foster a continuing, effective partnership.

School:	Anthony V. Ceres School	**School:**	School Number Ten
Type:	K-4	**Type:**	K-4
Size:	332 students	**Size:**	482 students
Address:	445 State Street Perth Amboy, NJ 08861	**Address:**	318 Stockton Street Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone:	(201) 826-3360 x-520	**Phone:**	(201) 826-3360 x-510/511
Principal:	Gerald Chismar	**Principal:**	Stanley Kluj

District: Perth Amboy
Superintendent: Frank M. Sinatra

Anthony V. Ceres School and School Number Ten, the 21st Century School, have joined forces in accepting the responsibility for initiating "Home Opportunities Promoting Education" (HOPE) in an effort to build and support home-school relationships. Both schools have large Hispanic populations.

- A district parent involvement mission statement that supports opportunities for parent participation will be developed. The policy will formulate an operational definition of parent involvement and provide for parent involvement.
- Parents will be trained in "how-to" strategies to help their children with school work at home through activities and techniques that teach them the same things that their children are learning in school.
- Pre-school children and their parents will participate in a readiness program called "Prep School."
- School-age children of parents involved in the program will participate in a "Homework Club" while their parents are engaged in parent involvement tasks.
- Parents will be afforded the opportunity to increase their ability to communicate in English.

School: Bradley Elementary School
Type: K-4
Size: 409 students

Address: Third Avenue & Pine Street
Asbury Park, NJ 07712
Phone: (201) 776-2606

District: Asbury Park
Superintendent: R. Thomas Jannarone, Jr.
Principal: Judith Owens

Bradley Elementary School families experience urban conditions that tend to foster malaise and undermine a home-school partnership. To strengthen the family support system and raise its aspirations, the school will implement a parent involvement program through its Bradley Family Center to provide comprehensive, intensive, and flexible responses to family needs. Efforts will include successful intervention practices drawn from the work of Dr. James Comer and will entail:

- Designing and implementing after-school family programs and activities for a multi-purpose family center to be staffed by professionals and parents;
- Informing parents through mailings, local churches, and the weekly newspaper of the variety of activities offered, including help for parents helping their children with homework; workshops on parenting skills and discipline techniques; informational briefings on supportive social service agencies; opportunities to share positive family experiences; and support in mediating home-school problems; and
- Collaborating with social services agencies and institutions to provide a literacy program for adults.

School:	Keyport Central Elementary School	**Address:**	Broad Street Keyport, NJ 07735
Type:	PK-4	**Phone:**	(201) 264-2840
Size:	651 students		

District:	Keyport
Superintendent:	Dwight R. Pfennig
Principal:	Norman Zweiacher

Keyport Central Elementary School serves a multi-ethnic community experiencing a population in transition. Its clients represent a broad range of economic diversity. Efforts are underway to develop participatory partnerships that will reach parents through church groups, neighborhood groups, and informal teas.

- A schoolwork/school question "hotline" will increase the availability of information to parents regarding homework, school functions, community services, and school-based therapeutic parents groups focusing on creative parenting skills.
- Meaningful dialogue between parents and school professionals will be developed through joint participation in in-service activities.
- A series of evening courses for parents will focus on strategies that reinforce school learning at home.
- Community agencies that provide support to parents will be published in a bilingual parent directory.

School:	Wanamassa Elementary School	**Address:**	Bendermere Avenue
Type:	K-4		Wanamassa, NJ 07712
Size:	369 students	**Phone:**	(201) 531-5700

District:	Ocean Township
Superintendent:	Robert J. Mahon
Principal:	Camille Tighe

Wanamassa Elementary School serves a largely middle-class community with a small percentage of low-income and homeless families, some with limited English proficiency. Most students are bused to and from school. To improve the home-school connection, the "High Tech Tattler," a new telephone communications system, will save time by providing the opportunity for an easy and swift exchange of information between home and school.

- Parents will receive computer-recorded messages from school two to three times a week.
- A software program enables the messages to be translated into the parent's native language.
- Parents can call the teacher daily to listen to a pre-recorded message outlining the major objectives of day-to-day lessons and homework assignments, as well as suggesting ways in which parents can help their children with homework.
- Parents may leave messages on the answering machine if they have questions or concerns.

School: Red Bank Middle School
Type: 5-8
Size: 350 students

Address: 101 Harding Road
Red Bank, NJ 07701
Phone: (201) 758-1510

District: Red Bank
Superintendent: William DiMaio
Principal: Theodore Brown

Red Bank Middle School plans to increase student academic performance by strengthening the home-school connection. The proposed strategies were designed to meet the needs of parents in ways that will enhance their abilities and broaden opportunities for them to participate in the education of their children.

- Ways in which parents can volunteer to assist the school's educational efforts will be disseminated to promote parent participation.
- A newsletter will inform parents of school activities and suggest ways in which they can help their children achieve.
- The school will house a Parents Resource Room equipped with the materials and information that parents of middle school students need.
- A parent involvement coordinator will help to coordinate faculty, staff, and parents to serve the needs of the students better.

School: Spruce Street School
Type: K-5
Size: 685 students

Address: Spruce Street
Lakewood, NJ 08701
Phone: (201) 905-3660

District: Lakewood
Superintendent: John F. Patrick, Jr.
Principal: Gene A. Abel

Spruce Street School developed "Parents and Education Together" (PET) to enlighten and assist parents in ways that will engage them as active participants in their children's education. Due to lack of public transportation, buses will be provided to facilitate attendance at parent workshops. Child care will allow parents to bring their youngsters to these gatherings.

- Parent workshops will offer strategies on how to help children at home and provide the instructions and materials necessary to accomplish successful learning activities at home.
- Teacher-developed learning games and videos, along with other resources, are available for parents to use at home through a permanent lending library.
- Parent workshops will be offered that allow parents to enhance their own academic skills.
- A monthly newsletter will serve to communicate upcoming events and materials available for parental use.

School: Southern Regional Middle School
Type: 7-8
Size: 586 students

Address: 75 Cedar Bridge Road
Manahawkin, NJ 08050
Phone: (609) 597-9481

District: Southern Regional District
Superintendent: Robert Daria
Principal: Al Annunziata

Southern Regional Middle School, located in a suburban/rural resort seashore community, enrolls students from eight sending districts. With seven-eighths of the student population residing outside the school's neighborhood, parents who reside in the eight different communities have considered communication a major problem. They also have expressed uncertainty as to their role in their children's academics and their limited time and availability for school-related activities.

- Parentnet will increase parent-to-parent contacts for the purpose of "How do I...?" and "How did you...?" conversations.
- Key to Success will provide a series of workshops for parents and teachers to discover learning and teaching strategies that will stimulate student learning, instill self-esteem, build confidence, and highlight reasons why learning is important.
- Speakers Bureau for Parents will make presentations on the various problems faced by parents in today's society.
- Through a Parent Hotline, parents can communicate 24 hours a day with other parents and school representatives as major concerns develop.

School: Daretown Elementary School
Type: K-3
Size: 403 students

Address: R.D. 3, Box 131
Elmer, NJ 08318
Phone: (609) 358-8185/358-3376

District: Upper Pittsgrove Township
Superintendent: William A. Randazzo
Principal: Christina C. White

Daretown Elementary School is located in a rural dairy and vegetable farming area where students are bused to school, support facilities are limited, and the community does not have a public library. To spark parent involvement, the school will implement "Shared Purposes in Reading and Learning" (SPIRAL), a program designed to promote students' reading success by inviting the family's adult members to work with children on reading growth while enhancing their own reading abilities, as well. Families also will be able to participate in shared learning experiences at the Learning Center on Saturday mornings.

- Parents and children will combine ideas and skills to create a book.
- Parents and children will make and take home learning packets that reinforce reading skills.
- A Friday night sleepover at school will allow parents and students to have reading time together.
- Computer-assisted instruction will be available to adults experiencing reading problems.
- Programs to be implemented: Books and Beyond, Celebrity Reader, Junior Great Books, Book Bank.

School:	Franklin Elementary School	**School:**	Rahway Intermediate School
Type:	PK-6	**Type:**	7-8
Size:	490 students	**Size:**	428 students
Address:	1809 St. Georges Avenue Rahway, NJ 07065	**Address:**	Kline Place Rahway, NJ 07065
Phone:	(201) 396-1050	**Phone:**	(201) 396-1025
Principal:	Frank Buglione	**Principal:**	Ralph Manfredi

District: Rahway
Superintendent: Frank Brunette

Franklin Elementary School and the Rahway Intermediate School will offer training activities designed to involve parents in the education of their children and to improve students' attitudes toward learning by encouraging ongoing use of alternative, positive approaches to discipline. Rahway's Cooperative Learning Project: Parents and Teachers as Partners will provide parent workshops and inservice for teachers and organize parenting groups that foster greater parent involvement in the educational process.

- Parents will participate in Assertive Discipline training sessions. Parenting techniques from the Parent Resource Guide will be included in the school newsletters.
- Teachers will participate in workshops to develop skills in establishing positive parent-teacher relationships and in implementing Assertive Discipline techniques in the classroom throughout the year.
- Teachers will develop supplementary basic skills materials for parents to use to support and enhance their children's academic performance throughout the school year.
- A series of workshops will help parents to be more effective in monitoring the completion of homework assignments.
- Community awareness as to the importance of home/school partnerships will be developed through a campaign of press releases, school newsletter articles, and school and community presentations.

Partners in Learning Advisory Council

Vivian Beetle, Hoffmann-LaRoche
Roberto Bustamante, Hispanic Leadership Opportunity Program
Lynn Corsi, Hamilton Township Parent
Thomas Crenshaw, Willingboro Parent
Mildred English, Hillside Parent
Marcia Eskin, West Orange Parent
Marcia Friedman, New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association
Anne Gallagher, New Jersey Association of School Administrators
Herbert Green, Public Education Institute
Stephen Gould, New Jersey Bell
Jeannette Hodge, New Jersey Retired Educators Association
Steven Jones, Project Schools, Newark
William Knox, New Jersey School Boards Association
Diane Lavelle, New Jersey Parent Teacher Association
Clara Little, Newark Parent
Kathy Gallagher, New Jersey Education Association
Edward Meglis, New Jersey Association of School Business Officials
Julio Mendez, Vineland Parent
Vincent Mento, New Jersey Association of School Business Officials
Sister Ruth Morgan, Nonpublic Schools
Sister Nora Nash, Nonpublic Schools
Leroy Nevius, International Masons
Paul Pinella, Jr., Urban League of Metropolitan Trenton
Cathy Reading, Ewing Parent
Debbie Scott, Metuchen Education Association
Peter Tirri, Paterson Education Association
John Van Gorder, Tabernacle Parent

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